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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND ON THE WORK OF ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION (10-13 MAY 1994)*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Executive Board of the Untied Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session (10-13 May 1994). It was previously issued under the symbol DP/1994/9. The reports of the first regular session (15-18 February 1994), the annual session (Geneva, 6-17 June 1994), and the third regular session (October 1994) will be issued as parts I, III and IV, respectively. The reports will be combined and issued in final form as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 15 (E/1994/35/Rev.1).

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. On 10 May 1994, the Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its second regular session 1994, as contained in document DP/1994/L.2:

Item 1: Organizational matters

Item 2: Office for Project Services

Item 3: Programme-level activities and special programmes of assistance

Item 4: Matters relating to the programming cycles

Item 5: Country programmes, mid-term reviews and related matters

Item 6: Evaluation

Item 7: Other funds and programmes

Item 8: Other matters

The Board also agreed on the work plan as contained in document DP/1994/L.2.

2. The Administrator informed the Executive Board that a major effort had been made to reduce the number of introductions. In addition, all senior staff had been instructed to be as brief as possible in their statements. A number of members of the Board expressed strong concern that some of the documentation was distributed very late.

3. The President informed the Board that no written comments had been received from Members of the Board to the report on the first regular session 1994, which had been issued under the symbol DP/1994/2. The Board approved the report without comments.

Summary records for annual sessions

4. The President drew the attention of the Executive Board to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, in which the General Assembly "encourages all bodies currently entitled to written meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session". The President recalled that in February the Board had decided to abolish summary records for the regular sessions of the Board and that one week later the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had agreed to abolish summary records for all its sessions. At the informal briefing session on 28 April 1994 of UNDP/UNFPA, there had been very broad support for the proposal to abolish summary records for annual sessions, in particular since considerable savings would be achieved if a decision could be taken before the 1994 annual session. On 13 May 1994, the Board decided to abolish the summary records for its annual sessions.

II. OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

5. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) introduced the draft report of the Secretary-General on the Office of Project Services (OPS) (DP/1994/27), which had been requested by the Governing Council in paragraph 6 of its decision 93/46 of 16 December 1993. He stated that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) would review the matters relating to OPS, as requested in decision 93/46, at a meeting on 16 and 17 May 1994. The analysis and recommendations of ACABQ are expected to be available to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 1994. The Under-Secretary-General for DDSMS described the arrangements that had been worked out in the areas of finance, personnel, administration, and budget. He stated that the report was the result of consultations among all parties related to the proposed transfer of OPS to DDSMS, as well as with some Governments. It took into consideration all relevant legislation and documentation and it reflected the endorsement of all members of the OPS Management Board. The Administrator stated that he supported the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General of Administration and Management noted that the combination of OPS and DDSMS had, as its purpose, the valid business objective of aggregating compatible resources, increasing efficiency, and decreasing unwarranted competitiveness. He stated that the plan before the Board did that.

6. Several delegations expressed the view that while measures to enhance the autonomy of OPS and improve the transparency of OPS relations with UNDP and the United Nations system should be pursued, OPS should continue to be part of UNDP, reporting to the Administrator and to the Executive Board, and that a decision should be taken as quickly as possible. One delegation noted a contact group of interested parties had been convened since March 1994 with the aim of better informing itself on the future role and structure of OPS. Another delegation suggested that the Board recommend the formation of an advisory board to deal with implementation issues of technical cooperation and to work towards ensuring closer cooperation with all parts of the United Nations system, including DDSMS. It was also suggested that the Administrator report to the Board at a future meeting on ways and means that those concerns could be addressed while maintaining OPS within UNDP.

7. One delegation stated that the report of the Secretary-General adequately addressed the concerns that Member States had voiced the previous year and showed that the integration of OPS with DDSMS would allow for complementarity and improved cost-effectiveness. Another asked for more time to consider all documentation before a decision was taken by the Board.

8. The Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS, in response to the discussion, noted that the integration of OPS into DDSMS was intended as an important component of the Secretary-General's mandate to reform the United Nations system at the request of Member States. The Secretary-General had the legislative authority of the United Nations Charter to serve as the Organization's Chief Administrative Officer. The Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS stated that Member States had given the Secretary-General the mandate for restructuring of the United Nations, had approved the overall idea of the merger of OPS and DDSMS, and had asked the Secretary-General for further details on the modalities for the merger. On that basis, the Secretary-General and all concerned parties had undertaken a great amount of work, at the request of ACABQ and the Governing

Council. These preparations were designed to ensure added value in the functioning of OPS and in the benefits to United Nations Member States.

9. The President suggested that the Executive Board meet informally in order to enable a convergence of views and develop a common perception.

10. Following informal consultations among delegations and between delegations and the Secretariat, the President informed the Executive Board that the adoption of a decision on OPS would be deferred to the 1994 annual meeting of the Board with the understanding that there would be no delay beyond that meeting. In the interim, delegations would hold informal discussions based on a work programme directed at achieving concrete results. The consultations would be open to all interested Members of the Programme and would be announced in the Journal.

III. PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

A. Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

11. A number of representatives welcomed the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People. Several references were made to the areas of programme focus, the importance of coordinated action by all members of the donor community and the role of UNDP in that process, and the urgency of providing increased assistance to Palestinians in strengthening their own contributions. Several speakers welcomed the agreement concluded on 9 May 1994 between the Palestine Liberation Organization and UNDP.

12. The President of the Executive Board stated in conclusion that it had been agreed, after informal consultations, that there was no need for a decision on this item.

B. The role of the United Nations Development Programme in humanitarian affairs

13. Several delegations took the floor to express strong and continuing support for the Disaster Management Training Programme, which was described as a unique inter-agency tool for building national and United Nations disaster-management capacity.

14. Representatives recognized the importance of UNDP's involvement in the relief-to-development continuum and stressed the importance of the organization's involvement in emergencies, particularly through the Resident Representative/Resident Coordinator system. Support was also voiced for UNDP efforts in rehabilitation and reconstruction and in development programmes for refugees, returnees and the reintegration of ex-combatants.

15. General agreement was expressed for the need to strengthen cooperation between UNDP and the Department for Humanitarian Affairs and to widen the pool of prospective Resident Coordinators to include qualified candidates from other agencies.

16. Representatives welcomed the initiative shown by UNDP in commissioning a study on the organization's role in the continuum and requested to be briefed on the results.

17. The Administrator noted the recommendations and endorsements of the delegations and appealed for additional financial contributions that would allow UNDP to carry out effectively its increasing responsibilities.

18. The Executive Board took note of the report contained in document DP/1994/13 and the comments made by delegations.

C. HIV and development: the proposed joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS

19. Many delegations took the floor to express their support for UNDP participation, along with that of other United Nations organizations, in the

ongoing process to establish a United Nations system programme on HIV/AIDS. Some concern was expressed that the process of establishing the proposed programme should not impede the urgent work of UNDP and other organizations in strengthening national capacity to respond effectively to the epidemic. The proposed United Nations system programme will be taken up next during the 1994 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

20. Representatives commended UNDP for its efforts to help to strengthen national capacity to deal with the multisectoral aspects of the HIV epidemic. Satisfaction was also expressed at the recruitment of the 22 HIV and Development National Professional Officers, whose posts had been approved in principle by the Governing Council in its decision 93/35.

21. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the Resident Coordinator in coordinating the United Nations system response to the HIV epidemic at the country level in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 47/199. A number of delegations stressed the need to mobilize more resources for HIV country-level coordination.

22. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/6. United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to participate actively in the ongoing negotiations among the secretariats of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank to establish with urgency a United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and to ensure that a proposal is put before the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994;

2. Supports participation of the United Nations Development Programme in the new United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. Reaffirms that country coordination of the joint and co-sponsored programme should be undertaken within the framework of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/7 of 22 July 1993;

4. Authorizes the Administrator to recruit the 22 National Officers as per decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993, taking into consideration the future need to adjust the terms of reference for the 22 positions to make them compatible with the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

5. Requests the Administrator to report on the activities of these 22 National Professional Officers to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1995;

6. Requests the Administrator to transmit the present decision to the other co-sponsoring organizations as well as to the Economic and Social Council.

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Request from the Government of Albania for "as if" LDC status

23. The Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States introduced the item. He indicated that the Governing Council had reviewed the issue at its fortieth session (1993) and had postponed taking a decision pending additional information on the economic situation in Albania. The additional information was now included in the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/4), which was before the Executive Board.

24. In his statement to the Executive Board, the representative of Albania presented the view of his Government that the Board should approve Albania's request for "as if" LDC status, drawing attention to the severe poverty, increased infant mortality, and serious economic difficulties faced by the Government as it attempted to introduce reforms after years of isolation.

25. Several delegations expressed support for the request of Albania, and expressed their willingness to decide to grant Albania "as if" LDC status as an exceptional measure, and for a temporary period, with the condition that a precedent not be established. Some other delegations stated that, while sympathizing with Albania's request, they thought that Albania did not qualify for "as if" LDC status and that any decision should await a recommendation by the Committee on Development Planning.

26. Following informal discussions, the Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/8. Granting of indicative planning figure resources to Albania

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1994/4 and its annex;

2. Decides, in view of Albania's current and near-term circumstances of severe poverty and extremely low per capita income, to authorize the Administrator to allocate an additional $1.6 million to the fifth cycle indicative planning figure resources available to Albania on an exceptional and one-time basis. The amount will be adjusted in accordance with any future revisions in indicative planning figures that the Executive Board may approve at its 1994 annual session.

27. The representative of Albania, on behalf of his Government, thanked all members of the Executive Board for their decision and stated that it clearly indicated that the international community recognized and supported the development process, the efforts being made towards establishing a market economy, and the strengthening of democracy in Albania.

V. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

A. Regional Bureau for Africa

Sixth country programme for Kenya (DP/1994/CP/KEN/6)

Programme period: 1993-1996; IPF: $41.8 million

28. Three broad areas of concentration or themes for UNDP support were identified: governance and participatory development; capacity-building for economic management; and small- and medium-scale enterprise development.

29. The Assistant Minister for Planning and National Development of Kenya commented on the linkages and relevance of the sixth country programme to the seventh National Development Plan and expressed his Government's appreciation for UNDP support to the continuing national development efforts.

30. Several delegations, while generally supporting the thrust and strategy proposed under the sixth country programme, sought clarification on a number of issues, including: the extent to which the sixth country programme had taken into account the findings of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme; the scattered nature of projects within the concentration areas; the optimistic expectations regarding complementary cost-sharing; the role of UNDP in coordination vis-à-vis that of the World Bank; and the specific activities of UNDP in support of the Capacity 21 initiative. Support was also expressed for the employment-generation strategy suggested in the sixth country programme.

31. In reply, the Resident Representative provided detailed answers, emphasizing the collaborative alliance of UNDP and the World Bank in aid coordination; the programme's domestic resource-mobilization strategy and the trend towards phasing out the numerous inherited small projects in the programme. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa also pointed out that Kenya had established field-level coordination committees under the leadership of the Government, which had contributed substantively to the continuing dialogue with the Government and to inter-agency programming initiatives such as the preparation of the country strategy note.

32. The Board approved the sixth country programme for Kenya as presented.

Fifth country programme for Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/5)

Programme period: 1993-1996; IPF: $63.4 million

33. The three main areas of concentration of the programme were: strengthening economic management capacity; management of natural resources; and reduction of poverty. These had been basically retained from the previous programme and were perceived by both the Government and UNDP as relevant to the country's present development efforts. The main innovation in the fifth programme was the concentration of development activities in southern Madagascar by both UNDP and the United Nations system in general, and in accordance with Government priorities.

34. A number of delegations regarded the proposed programme as well articulated, consistent with the national priorities and in a few cases complementary to bilateral programmes. The UNDP leadership role in aid coordination, especially in disaster management in the south of the country, was

highly commended, as was the emphasis on gender considerations and the sustainability of public sector institutions under the new programme. However, questions were also raised on the prospects of accomplishing the objectives of the programme in the light of limited resources. In particular, one representative sought clarification on the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Turin Centre in the planned training activities in the modality of national execution.

35. The representative of Madagascar expressed the gratitude of the Malagasy Government for the support given by delegations and confirmed its commitment to cooperate fully with UNDP to realize the objectives of the programme. However, he pointed out the need for additional financial support from the international community to ensure the success of the programme. The representative paid special tribute to UNDP and the Resident Representative for his spirit of open and effective collaboration.

36. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for Madagascar as presented.

Assistance to Angola

37. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/8, in which the Administrator requested Board approval to continue the programme of assistance to Angola during 1994 on a project-by-project basis because of the ongoing conflict in the country, which inhibited the preparation of a country programme for Angola.

38. The request was well supported by various delegations. In particular, the representative of Portugal extended an invitation on behalf of his Government for the proposed UNDP-led round-table conference to take place in Lisbon, should that be agreeable to UNDP and the donor community.

39. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Congo

40. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/21, in which the Administrator requested the approval of the Board to continue assistance to Congo on a project-by-project basis owing to the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for Congo.

41. The Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Togo

42. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/42, in which the Administrator requested the approval of the Board to continue assistance to Togo on a project-by-project basis owing to the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for Togo.

43. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Zaire

44. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/43, in which the Administrator sought approval to continue assistance to Zaire on a case-by-case

basis because of the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for the country.

45. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania

46. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/14 on the advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania. Following extensive consultations between the Government and United Nations agencies, the areas of concentration under the fifth country programme had been reduced from five to four key programmes: macro-economic management; human resource management; national income-generation programme; and natural resource management. The modified programme would also seek greater use of the modality of national execution in each area of concentration.

47. While delegations were generally pleased with efforts made during the previous year to give a better focus to the programme, they expressed concern on several issues relating to the prospects for raising cost-sharing resources, the concentration area of national income-generation, which was perceived as still too broad, and the lack of clearly defined success indicators and benchmarks.

48. UNDP assured the Executive Board that the issues raised would be duly taken into consideration in the continuing dialogue with the Government and in developing the individual programmes.

49. The Executive Board took note of the report on the United Republic of Tanzania as contained in document DP/1994/15.

Review of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea

50. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/30, in which the Administrator proposed a reorientation of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea to focus on governance and environmental issues and an extension of the approved programming period to 1996.

51. Most delegations commended UNDP efforts at aid coordination in Equatorial Guinea and voiced support for the proposal to combine development programmes with good governance. However, one representative expressed concern over the absence of clearly defined success criteria and benchmarks with regard to progress in governance and human rights in the country while another expressed doubt about the reliability of the existing electoral system in the country.

52. In response, UNDP noted its collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to support the Government in pursuing a constructive dialogue on governance.

53. The Executive Board approved the proposal as presented.

B. Regional Bureau for Arab States

Third regional programme for Arab States (DP/RAB/3)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $23,300,000

54. In addition to the ongoing activities in food security, water, environment and information technology, which would continue to receive UNDP support, the new programme would focus on three new areas: sustainable human development; economic integration; and trade and sustainable energy.

55. Several delegations expressed support for the programme and commended the catalytic role it could play in enhancing subregional and regional cooperation. They also provided the following comments:

(a) Closer coordination with country programmes and with activities undertaken by United Nations agencies and other donors was required;

(b) The need to reflect systematically the sustainability element in the programmes to be developed;

(c) The regional programme could play a key role in advocating sustainable human development and in facilitating the exchange of experiences and information among countries;

(d) The creative approach adopted by the programme to increase resources in the form of cost-sharing could serve as an example to other programmes;

(e) The need to ensure that the results of agricultural research programmes were rapidly transferred to farmer communities and that mechanisms were established for coordination with international research centres;

(f) The need to support activities in the energy sector that would address the issue of price subsidies.

56. In response, UNDP noted that coordination with United Nations specialized agencies and donors had been carried out and cited the examples of the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), where activities were being streamlined to avoid duplication.

57. On sustainability, UNDP indicated that substantive and financial linkages between country and regional activities, focus on regional priorities, use of national and regional institutions and the development of instruments such as databases, communications facilities and network newsletters represented key factors that would be taken into account in the design of the programmes.

58. The dissemination of results of agricultural research programmes to farmers was a long-term process that had already been initiated through national agricultural research institutes and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in a number of projects, such as for those for barley and wheat.

59. The considerable amount of data collected during the formulation stage of the third regional programme constituted an important step towards building up sound baseline information that would also serve as an instrument for the monitoring of the programme's impact.

60. With respect to energy, pricing subsidies would be addressed within the overall context of the efficiency programme and demand-side-management components of the programme. The experiences acquired in some of the region's countries would be shared at the regional level.

61. The Executive Board approved the programme as presented.

Assistance to Somalia

62. The Executive Board had before it the report of the Administrator on UNDP activities in Somalia (DP/1994/3).

63. Most delegations expressed support for the proposed programme for Somalia and particularly commended UNDP for efforts in aid coordination, the emphasis on community-based development activities, the successful demobilization efforts in the north of Somalia and the transfer of the Development Office to UNDP. A few delegations emphasized the importance of further coordination with NGOs, bilateral donors and the World Bank and the consolidation of the activities of the Development Office, especially as the role of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) in the country declined. In the present circumstances of Somalia, it was also important for UNDP to be seen to be pursuing equitable regional development activities.

64. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on Somalia.

Assistance to the Sudan

65. The Executive Board considered the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the fourth country programme for the Sudan (DP/1994/16).

66. Several delegations expressed concern over the continuing human rights violations in the Sudan, the Government's obstruction of relief efforts in the south of the country and the concentration of UNDP activities only in the north of the country. One delegation felt that continued UNDP assistance to the Sudan under those conditions was ill advised. In response, a number of delegations noted that the Executive Board was not the proper forum for resolving political questions and that UNDP assistance should be provided unconditionally, in line with its mandate.

67. UNDP conceded that its current activities in Sudan covered only the north, mainly as a result of the absence of security and stability in the southern region. However, assistance had recently been extended to Wau, in the southern region, mainly in the area of food security and agriculture to the extent that the security situation permitted it.

68. The representative of the Sudan pointed out some recent positive developments, which included the adoption of a free-market economy, decentralization of government and the Government's peace negotiation efforts. He fully supported others who stated that the Executive Board was not a forum for political or human rights issues. He added that the right to development was a fundamental human right. As for humanitarian relief, the General Assembly had praised the cooperation of the Sudanese Government.

69. The Executive Board took note of the report on the enabling environment for the implementation of the fourth country programme for the Sudan. A number of delegations supported the fourth country programme for Sudan.

C. Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

Fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/CP/IRA/5)

Programme period: 1994-1998, IPF: $11,264,000

70. Several delegations praised the programme for its focus on management development. Two delegations emphasized their satisfaction with the harmonization of planning cycles now achieved among the agencies of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP).

71. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a concluding statement emphasizing the close cooperation between the Government and UNDP in the review of the fourth country programme and in the preparation of the fifth country programme document and underlined the progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the health and education sectors in spite of a number of adverse circumstances.

72. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran as presented.

Assistance to the Union of Myanmar

73. The Board had before it the report of the Administrator on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1994/17).

74. Several delegations expressed support for the various activities of UNDP at the village and grass-roots levels and agreed that those activities were important in meeting the humanitarian needs of the people of Myanmar. There was general consensus that the 14 projects approved in June 1993, plus the HIV/AIDS project (currently under formulation) responded fully to the mandate outlined in Governing Council decision 93/21 and should be carried through to completion.

75. In its decision 93/21, the Governing Council also requested the Administrator to present recommendations for future programming for its review at its forty-first session. However, a number of delegations expressed concern over the human rights and political situation in Myanmar and indicated that, for those reasons, they would not support additional programming in Myanmar beyond that approved in June 1993. In response, other delegations objected, on principle, to discussing human rights and related political issues in the Executive Board and noted that further UNDP assistance to Myanmar should be independent of political considerations.

76. Informal consultations were held on the matter. It was understood that the issue of future programming for Myanmar could be taken up at an appropriate time.

Assistance to Cambodia

77. The Board had before it the Administrator's report on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1994/25). UNDP efforts in support of Cambodia during the period of transition from 1991 through 1993 were noted with appreciation by many delegations. Several delegations called attention to the important role that UNDP was playing in the implementation of the National Programme for the Rehabilitation and Development of Cambodia, with particular reference to public-sector management as a whole, aid coordination and aid management, human resources development and other priority areas. Some delegations indicated that

they looked forward to a fuller and more substantive discussion on UNDP activities in Cambodia at the October 1994 session of the Executive Board, when it was expected that a country programme for Cambodia would be presented. In that regard, they asked that the relevant documentation be distributed to them well in advance of the meeting.

78. The Executive Board concluded its discussion of the note by endorsing its contents and by agreeing to the Administrator's proposal for the release of an additional $12 million in IPF resources for Cambodia pending submission of a country programme for Cambodia to the Executive Board. Subsequently, the representative of Cambodia made a strong statement in support of the action that had been taken by the Board.

D. Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Fourth country programme for Albania (DP/CP/ALB/4)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $6,074,000

79. Three areas of concentration were proposed for UNDP resources: (a) alleviation of the social impact of the structural reforms; (b) human resource development; and (c) national capacity-building. Several delegations spoke in support of the proposed country programme and some of the speakers made reference to their participation in the field visit of members of the Standing Committee on Programming Matters, which had visited Albania in 1993. All speakers emphasized their appreciation for the strong commitment and the efforts of the Government in effecting a reform to a market economy and the establishment of democracy in the country. Some speakers, however, felt that the country programme did not reflect a programme approach and contained too many diverse activities, which they considered could not be implemented within the limited UNDP resources available. In that connection, some delegations suggested that UNDP should focus on the alleviation of the social impact of structural economic reforms. The need for Albania to improve its aid coordination mechanisms was also highlighted by other delegations with the recommendation that UNDP assist the Government in that field.

80. In reply, UNDP explained that the programme had been formulated on the basis of anticipated additional funding and that the IPF was intended to be used as seed money to attract additional resources from other donors. In several instances, that was being achieved and reference was made to co-financing from the European Union and the United States and to the close collaboration and coordination of UNDP with other donors also focusing on the same areas.

81. The representative of Albania made a statement expressing his appreciation for those delegates who supported the country programme as well as to UNDP for its assistance. He confirmed that the areas of concentration mentioned in the country programme addressed the felt priority needs of his country as his Government tried to address the development problems they faced after years of isolation.

82. The Executive Board approved the fourth country programme for Albania as presented.

First country programme for Slovakia (DP/CP/SLO/1)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $1,100,000

83. The programme focus was on two areas of transition: restructuring the economy towards the private sector and human resources development. A number of delegations spoke in support of the proposed programme and applauded Slovakia's efforts to restructure its economy and strengthen its management capacity. Some delegations, however, emphasized the need for closer collaboration between UNDP and the Government, particularly in the absence of a country office and in view of Slovakia's emphasis on national execution, to ensure timely and smooth financial arrangements to facilitate the process. One delegation mentioned the absence of any reference to women in development and another stressed the need for support for Slovakia's environmental problems in terms of assistance from Capacity 21.

84. In taking the floor, the representative of Slovakia expressed his pleasure in presenting the first country programme for Slovakia to the Executive Board and emphasized the importance his Government attached to the limited but critical support from UNDP.

85. In response, UNDP reported that a regional statistical project, to be based in Bratislava, was in the final stages of formulation and one of the project's priorities would be the development of statistics on gender issues. In addition, UNDP was supporting the participation of NGOs focusing on gender issues in Slovakia. With regard to Capacity 21, UNDP emphasized that Slovakia's request for support in that area would be considered. UNDP was aware that there had been some problems in the transfer of funds to nationally executed projects and assured the Executive Board that they would be resolved. In that connection, UNDP planned to hold a workshop on national execution modalities in Bratislava in May in an effort to resolve some of the difficulties.

86. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Slovakia as presented.

E. Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Fifth country programme for Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/5)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $5,940,000

87. The areas of concentration for UNDP support were management development; human resource development and poverty alleviation; and capacity-building and macroeconomic management.

88. A number of delegations were very supportive of the thrust of UNDP interventions as they related very closely to the key development priorities of the Government. Delegations also welcomed the preparation of the national long-term development plan that was currently under way with support from the donor community.

89. Two issues were of particular concern to some delegations: the limited capacity of the public sector, which impacted negatively on the development process, and the need for more effective aid coordination.

90. In response, UNDP noted that the Government had sought to strengthen its capacity by reforming the public sector and by the establishment of a national execution unit within the Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was stressed that the capacity constraints should be looked at within the wider context of the significant emigration of Guyanese nationals over close to two decades. Therefore, sustained approaches coordinated by the donor community would be critical in reversing the trend and encouraging the return of Guyanese nationals.

91. On aid coordination, UNDP explained that there was in fact a high level of coordination through a system of sectoral government/donor meetings. In addition, coordination took place through the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED) mechanism.

92. The representative of Guyana commented on the relevance of the fifth country programme and expressed her Government's appreciation for UNDP support in its national development efforts.

93. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for Guyana as presented.

F. Mid-term review reports

Overviews on mid-term reviews

94. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/6, containing an overview of mid-term reviews undertaken in the first half of 1993, and document DP/1994/41, containing a tentative schedule for mid-term reviews that would be undertaken in 1994-1995.

95. One delegation sought clarification on the selection of representative reports to be presented to the Executive Board. It was explained that in line with previous practice, UNDP would make available mid-term reports on country programmes specifically identified by the Board and a representative sample from the reviews undertaken. It was anticipated that on average four or five reports would be presented as full Board documents while the remaining reports would be available on request in the original language of the review.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for Cape Verde

96. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/41/Add.1, which contained the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for Cape Verde.

97. The representative of Cape Verde confirmed his Government's commitment to the successful implementation of the fourth country programme. He expressed the hope that current resource constraints faced by his country could be resolved through increased contributions from the international community.

98. While taking note of the report of the mid-term review, one representative raised the following issues: the need for UNDP to assume, with government concurrence, an increased leadership role in aid coordination to avoid persistent underutilization of resources and duplication and overlap of efforts; the disproportionately large size of the national staff in relation to the size of the programme; the need for more focus on the question of democracy, including decentralization; and the need for UNDP to streamline the complexity and workload arising from national execution procedures.

99. In response, UNDP assured the Executive Board that while aid coordination was a primary role of the Government, the effort was being supported by UNDP, particularly through the round-table process. The last round-table conference had been held in November 1992 while the next one was scheduled for November 1994. UNDP further noted that decentralization was an integral component of governance, which was itself a key element of the fourth country programme. UNDP noted the concern regarding the fragmentation of the programme in Cape Verde and assured the Executive Board that every effort was being made to rectify this matter in a progressive manner.

100. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the third country programme for China

101. The Executive Board considered document DP/1991/41/Add.2, which contained the mid-term review of the third country programme for China.

102. The representative of China endorsed the mid-term review report, indicating that the review process had been extensive, covering the period from March to November 1993. As a result, the third country programme was well focused and had responded well to China's emerging needs. The Government of China and the UNDP country office were following up on the implementation of the mid-term review recommendations.

103. While generally supporting the third country programme areas of concentration, several delegations indicated the need for more attention to poverty alleviation and grass-roots participation and the incorporation of women in development. One delegation called on UNDP to play a more active role in coordinating poverty alleviation in view of donor interest in the area. Another delegation welcomed UNDP support for legal and economic reform in China. With specific reference to UNDP assistance for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, it was indicated that more emphasis was required on monitoring and enforcement aspects. The need for more support to private sector development was also mentioned. One representative expressed concern about the curtailment of UNDP assistance in the areas of environment, energy efficiency and social development as a result of reductions in IPF allocations.

104. On operational issues, China was commended for implementing the programme approach and national execution in its programmes. Particular concern was expressed about weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The role of UNDP in aid coordination in China was generally considered to be satisfactory and its role in the formulation of the country strategy note was supported. The secretariat responded to queries raised providing more details on UNDP activities in support of poverty alleviation and environment through GEF funding. UNDP support for the formulation of China's national agenda 21 was also highlighted.

105. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for India

106. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.2, which contained the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for India.

107. The representative of India presented in detail the process and results of the mid-term review, which had been thorough and had concluded that the

programme at large was on track but that further focus would be desirable to ensure greater impact.

108. Several delegations expressed general satisfaction with the mid-term review and noted the positive experience with national execution in the country. Some, however, felt that the programme could be further focused and that the areas of poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development should be considered a priority in the programme. It was also recommended that the programme should concentrate on larger interventions under the programme approach and that small projects should be developed selectively in only upstream and high-impact areas.

109. In reply, UNDP noted that actions were being undertaken to focus the programme in India further and that, for the remainder of its duration, the programme would concentrate on sustainable environment management and poverty elimination. To enhance sustainability and accountability, major efforts had also been undertaken to introduce performance benchmarks against which the programme progress could be measured.

110. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for Indonesia

111. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.3, which contained the report on the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for Indonesia.

112. Delegations made favourable comments on the report's frankness, high quality and comprehensiveness. The mid-term review process had reaffirmed the programme's general relevance and had resulted in sharpening its focus on poverty alleviation and environmental protection and natural resources management for the remaining period of the cycle. A few delegations noted the complementarity between UNDP-assisted programmes and their own bilateral activities.

113. Some delegations suggested that efforts may still be made to reduce further the number of programmes and projects and warned against symbolic reductions through rearranging existing activities. Several delegations requested UNDP to promote further the active participation of non-governmental and community-based organizations in implementing development activities and also to expand its activities as far as possible to other parts of the country. Others urged for more systematic integration of gender and environmental concerns into the development planning and programmes.

114. The representative of Indonesia stressed that his Government had always attached great importance to UNDP country programmes and assured the Executive Board of his Government's commitment to continuing cooperation with UNDP towards the effective utilization of programme resources as well as the implementation of the programme.

115. In response, UNDP explained current joint efforts being made by the Government and UNDP in promoting the participation of women, NGOs and the private sector in the development process, and gave assurance that measures were already being taken, both by the Government and UNDP, to further narrow the focus of the current programme, which would also have an effect on the next country programme.

116. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Zambia

117. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.1, containing the report on the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Zambia.

118. The mid-term review had reaffirmed the programme's general relevance and had resulted in its focus on capacity-building for economic and social management, support to private sector development, support to social sector development and support to agricultural development during the balance of the cycle. A few delegations noted that there were many activities in some of the subprogrammes and suggested some modifications for a more sharpened programme.

119. Some delegations noted that the activities of bilateral and other donors had not been included in the report. They suggested that efforts were needed to coordinate all the programmes in Zambia to avoid duplication.

120. Delegations noted the efforts being made by the Government to establish and/or strengthen national institutions for the execution of the programme. They stressed the need to retain trained manpower to ensure sustainability in programme implementation.

121. In response, UNDP explained that the programme was being adjusted in line with the policies and orientation of the new Government. The Bureau assured the Executive Board that it would continue to support the Government in the coordination of all the programmes in Zambia.

122. The representative of Zambia thanked the members of the Executive Board for supporting the programme and for their constructive comments on its improvement.

123. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

G. Reports on field visits: report on the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan

124. The Executive Board discussed the report of the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan from 9 to 23 August 1993.

125. Introducing the portion of the report dealing with Albania, the representative of Canada, who had served as one of the two rapporteurs of the team, spoke of the detailed substantive discussions the team had had with Government leaders and officials, donor representatives, NGO officials, the Resident Representative and his staff, locally based representatives of other United Nations agencies, and project personnel. He spoke also of the project visits the team had undertaken, especially into the rural areas. All of this had served to enhance the team members' understanding of the impact of, and salient issues involved in, the activities of UNDP and UNFPA in the country.

126. He drew attention to the massive and genuine political, economic and social transition the country was undergoing, in which the process of change had been and continued to be very challenging. One of those challenges was for the Government to develop a system of effective coordination of external assistance; another to pursue the concept of development planning and strategizing, with fuller community participation.

127. In his concluding remarks, the representative of Canada referred to a deterioration in 1993 in the active and high quality role OPS had played as an executing agency in the country. He believed that that appeared to be due to the OPS preoccupation with, and the attendant uncertainties of, the proposed merger with DDSMS.

128. The representative of Ecuador, speaking as the team's rapporteur for the portion of the report dealing with Uzbekistan, described the same level of broad-based discussions in Uzbekistan, including project visits, that the team had undertaken in Albania. He spoke of the country's potentials in its natural and mineral resources, notably in gold, oil, coal, gas, copper and silver. The country's rich cultural heritage carried further potentials for development. Yet its current social and economic predicaments were visibly reflected in its problems of poverty, malnutrition and high infant mortality rate.

129. Describing the Government's aim at achieving a market economy through a step-by-step process, he referred to UNDP and UNFPA complementary support to priority areas through training, orientation and national capacity-building efforts. He also highlighted efforts in fostering privatization and in building up the necessary capacity to exploit the country's rich potentials in cultural tourism.

130. Emphasizing regional collaboration in coping with common environmental hazards, especially of the sea, the representative of Ecuador described the establishment of the Committee on Environment, at a summit of the seven neighbouring countries held in 1983, which had created a workable structure, including a common fund, for that purpose.

131. The United Nations office, pursuing the "Integrated office" concept was endeavouring to provide useful service while working under limited budgetary cover. He drew attention especially to the need for strengthening the administrative capacity of the office, which had been found to be weak.

132. Members of the Executive Board, in discussing the report, felt that the gap of nine months in its submission was excessive and should be avoided in the consideration of reports of future field visits.

133. Members also discussed the questions of absorptive capacity which, it was explained, was noted in the bottlenecks in the governmental machineries and affected the timely utilization of international assistance. A more workable coordination mechanism should help alleviate the dilemma.

134. Responding to a question from one delegation, the Director of the Bureau for External Relations explained that lessons learned from field visits were indeed taken into account in general programming work. Dealing with the concern of other delegations for an early consideration of the report of the two field visits that had just taken place, one in Viet Nam and Philippines, the other in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan, he agreed that they could be considered during the annual session 1994 of the Executive Board, scheduled to take place in Geneva in June 1994. The Bureau of the Board would consider the possibility of doing so.

135. The Deputy Director of the Division for External Relations informed the Executive Board of the plans to organize the next field visit to Zimbabwe and Kenya during the second and third weeks of August 1994. He said that as soon as

confirmation of the preparedness of the Governments of both countries to receive the field visits came through, invitations would go out to members of the Board to nominate participants.

136. The Executive Board took note of the report.

VI. EVALUATION

137. The Board had before it the report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/1994/24).

138. The Director of the Central Evaluation Office (CEO) highlighted key issues, and the substantive involvement of UNDP in the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation within the framework of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Evaluation (IAWG). He outlined the initiatives currently under way to introduce effective feedback strategy in UNDP, including a system of programme performance audit to enhance programme quality and accountability. He noted that the establishment of the new Office of Evaluation and Strategic Planning in the near future would link strategic planning with central evaluation functions. Details would be provided by the Administrator at the 1994 annual session.

139. Noting the high quality and candid character of the feedback study, the Executive Board endorsed its findings and recommendations. They appreciated that the management of UNDP had already initiated actions to implement many key recommendations. The quantitative targets, indicators and results orientation reflected in the various guidelines developed by CEO were fully endorsed.

140. Attention was drawn by delegations to paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 93/26, in which the Council requested the Administrator to include in his biennial report a statistical and qualitative analysis of evaluation reports. That would provide an important insight for the Board for their assessment of programme performance.

141. The Administrator's intention to combine the strategic planning with central evaluation functions in a new organizational unit reporting directly to him was noted. Delegations expected that those arrangements would mainstream evaluation with the decision-making process. Several delegations noted their expectation that those arrangements would strengthen the evaluation function and ensure its continued independence and transparency.

142. The importance of a common evaluation approach among the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system was stressed by some delegations. Accordingly, the Executive Board felt that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/199 and in the context of the next triennial review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, the Economic and Social Council should give special attention to ways and means for the relevant United Nations organs and agencies to implement joint, cost-effective and action-oriented evaluation mechanisms and to the relevant actions that need to be taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

143. In response, the Director confirmed that in accordance with Governing Council decision 93/26, the next statistical analysis of evaluation reports would be presented to the Executive Board in 1995.

144. In introducing the programme performance audit system (PPAS), the Director assured the Board that due attention would be given to avoid any conflict or overlap with existing instruments of review, monitoring, evaluation and audit. Indeed, the PPAS was being introduced as part of an overall, integrated package for improved programme quality and effectiveness backed by accountability.

Thus, the purpose of the PPAS was to facilitate the introduction of results-based management by clarifying and reinforcing the concept of accountability and by introducing realistic performance indicators agreed upon by managers at all levels.

145. The harmonization of evaluation activities had been initiated earlier within the framework of IAWG, JCGP, and CCPOQ. UNDP had played a central role in the formulation of a common report on the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation systems among the JCGP institutions as well as in the preparation of a document providing for a common United Nations framework for developing guiding principles for monitoring and evaluation in the context of the programme approach.

146. In his concluding remarks, the Administrator noted his intention to strengthen further the evaluation function and link it to strategic planning so that it would contribute directly to policy formation and management decision.

147. The Board took note of the report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/1994/24).

VII. OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

148. The Executive Board had before it the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers (DP/1994/28).

149. Representatives expressed appreciation and endorsement for the newer roles of UNV in the continuum and in peace-keeping. It was stressed that these should be pursued in addition to the more traditional strengths of UNV in technical cooperation, especially in support of community-based initiatives. In the same spirit, representatives requested the Administrator to seek additional and assured funding for the Domestic Development Services (DDS) programme. Furthermore, UNV was urged to strengthen the approaches whereby the synergies between peace-related, humanitarian and longer-term development efforts could be exploited.

150. Representatives expressed support for the proposal to bring the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme under UNV administration in order to consolidate the management of all volunteer UNDP programmes in a form that would maintain the distinctive identity and profile of the TOKTEN programme and volunteers.

151. Assurances were given by the UNV Executive Coordinator that commitments on a fully funded basis, made from Special Voluntary Fund general purpose resources, on the basis of written pledges, would be managed conservatively and remain within the reserve provided by available balances.

152. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/9. United Nations Volunteers

The Executive Board

1. Notes the range of roles being undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers, encompassing its participation in the full development-humanitarian relief-peace continuum as described in the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/28);

2. Invites the Administrator to designate the United Nations Volunteers as manager of the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals initiative in addition to the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, which has already merged with the United Nations Volunteers;

3. Authorizes the United Nations Volunteers to commit funds, on a fully funded basis, on receipt of written pledges rather than on receipt of the funds, as concerns the general purpose component of the Special Voluntary Fund; and

4. Requests the Administrator to continue to seek more financial resources for assured and firm funding for the Domestic Development Services programme.

13 May 1994

B. United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR)

153. Representatives welcomed the efficiency created by placing the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR) under UNV management. They also appreciated the fact that UNISTAR continued to maintain its distinct identity and programme focus and requested the Administrator to exercise creative means to provide growth to the programme as well as to encourage special contributions from the private and public sectors.

154. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/7. United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Report of the Administrator on the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme;

2. Requests the Administrator to explore creative means to support the continued growth of the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, including the application of funding, where appropriate, from the Special Programme Resources, in areas where the programme is conducting innovative and experimental work in support of sustainable human development;

3. Requests the Administrator to encourage special contributions from the private and public sectors of developed and developing countries to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund for innovative United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources activities.

12 May 1994

C. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

155. Several delegations encouraged UNCDF to continue its efforts to broaden its resource base towards non-traditional sources of funding. Some delegations stated that their governments would be increasing their contribution to the Fund during 1994 while several others reaffirmed their Government's continued support.

156. A number of delegations expressed interest at the Administrator's proposal for a larger, more vital UNCDF. While some questioned the financial viability of such a proposal, others endorsed the comparative advantage and specificity of UNCDF as a capital assistance facility.

157. Specific issues pertaining to the possibility of accessing funds from multilateral development banks for micro-credit programmes, the expansion of UNCDF loan activities, and the new role of UNCDF as the community development arm of UNDP were noted for further consideration in conjunction with future reports of the Administrator on UNCDF activities.

158. The Executive Board took note of the report and encouraged UNCDF to continue its efforts to identify increased sources of financing, including those from non-traditional donors.

D. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSTD) and Transfer of Technology through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)

159. The Secretariat provided information to the Executive Board on the very precarious financial situation of both Funds and made reference to the fact that there was broad agreement to move the responsibilities of TOKTEN modality to the UNV in order to consolidate the management of all volunteer programmes.

160. A question was raised with regard to the financing of science and technology in the wider context of the United Nations system - for example, through the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council - particularly with reference to the concept of the coalition of resources. The Secretariat explained that UNDP activities in science and technology clearly went beyond UNFSTD and that UNDP intended to continue to play a role in that respect. The major donor to UNRFNRE confirmed the willingness of his Government to continue to contribute to the Fund and urged other donors to do the same.

161. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development and the Transfer of Technology through Expatriate Nationals (DP/1994/29).

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

A. Participation of UNDP in the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II)

162. In his introduction of the topic, the President of the Executive Board noted the extensive negotiations on the restructuring of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which had culminated in Geneva in March 1994, when participating States accepted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II). The UNDP Executive Coordinator for the GEF then presented a summary of the history of the restructuring process, including the results of the pilot phase and its independent evaluation. He commented on the replenishment and outlined UNDP responsibilities in the operational GEF. In his presentation, the Executive Coordinator explained that, throughout the restructuring process, the implementing agencies had been exhorted to broaden access to the GEF to a wide range of organizations, including NGOs. By means of improving existing procedures and regulations, it would be possible to provide a range of options for their participation in the GEF Work Programme, including the execution of projects.

163. The numerous delegations who commented all expressed their support for UNDP to serve as an implementing agency of the GEF and for the adoption of the Instrument in its present form. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNDP in facilitating the process of negotiations leading to the acceptance of the Instrument. Delegations also expressed their desire that the Executive Board be regularly informed on the implementation of GEF, including UNDP strategies and operational plans. It was noted by a delegation that GEF initiatives addressed global issues and that incremental costs were a factor to be considered in the design of GEF projects and programmes.

164. The Executive Board adopted the Instrument as the basis for the participation of the United Nations Development Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.

B. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

165. The Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) briefed Executive Board members on the outcome of the recently concluded third and final Preparatory Committee session for the ICPD.

C. Proposals relating to the 1994 annual session

1. Deadlines for submission of documentation

166. One representative announced that a proposal would be introduced at the 1994 annual session, according to which the six weeks rule for submission of documentation would be changed to three weeks for substantive reports and five weeks for country programmes, respectively. Documents presented later than those deadlines could be considered if Members so wished but any decision-taking based on those reports should be deferred to the following session. Several delegations expressed their agreement in principle with the proposal.

2. Distribution of Executive Board documentation in electronic form

167. One representative requested information to be provided regarding the costs involved of the distribution of Executive Board documentation in electronic form.

3. Preparation for discussion of future of UNDP

168. In reply to a question raised, the Secretary of the Executive Board gave assurance that the statement of the Administrator in the form of a document would be distributed before the 1994 annual session. One representative requested annotations indicating relevant mandates.

169. In his concluding remarks, the Administrator said that at the 1994 annual session the question would be whether Members were willing to make reforms and engage in basic thinking on how UNDP could be of most service within the United Nations. The changes the Administrator would propose at the annual session would follow inevitably from the statement he had given at the first regular session in February 1994.

D. Conclusion of the session

170. At the end of the session, the President introduced a draft decision providing an overview of decisions taken at the session as a new element in the work of the Executive Board. It had been a productive session. The Board had adopted several decisions on particular subjects and also a number of decisions on various matters on which there was no need for individual decision numbers. For practical reasons, it was suggested that the Board adopt a decision in which it would identify all decisions taken during the session. Such an overview decision would be given a number of its own and would enable the Board easily to see what country programmes it had approved, what reports it had taken note of or any other decision taken. The overview was a compilation of decisions already taken. The President concluded by saying that his summing up was contained in the draft overview decision.

171. The Executive Board concluded its work by adopting the following decision:

94/10. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1994

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1994 (DP/1994/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 1994 (DP/1994/2);

Decided to abolish the summary records for its annual sessions;

ITEM 2: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Decided to defer decision-taking to the 1994 annual session and to hold open-ended informal consultations on this subject before the 1994 annual session;

ITEM 3: PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

Took note of the report on the role of UNDP in humanitarian affairs (DP/1994/13);

Adopted decision 94/6 of 10 May 1994 on the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 94/8 of 13 May 1994 on the granting of indicative planning figure to Albania;

ITEM 5: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the following country programmes:

Fourth country programme for Albania (DP/CP/ALB/4)

Fifth country programme for Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/5)

Fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/CP/IRA/5)

Sixth country programme for Kenya (DP/CP/KEN/6)

Fifth country programme for Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/5)

First country programme for Slovakia (DP/CP/SLO/1)

Authorized the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for the following countries: Angola (DP/1994/8); Congo (DP/1994/21); Togo (DP/1994/42); Zaire (DP/1994/43);

Took note of the following reports: (a) Advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/1994/15); (b) Review of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/30);

Considered the report on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1994/17); the views expressed are reflected in the report of the session;

Took note of the report on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1994/25) and approved an advance commitment of an additional $12 million as suggested in paragraph 18 of the report;

Took note of the third intercountry programme for the Arab States (DP/RAB/3);

Took note of the report on progress and results of UNDP efforts in Somalia (DP/1994/3);

Took note of the report on impact of the overall enabling environment of the Sudan on the implementation of the fourth country programme (DP/1994/16);

Took note of the report on the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan (DP/1994/CRP.1);

Mid-term review reports

Took note of the arrangements for submission of mid-term reviews (DP/1994/6 and DP/1994/41);

Took note of the mid-term review reports on: (a) Fifth country programme for Zambia (DP/1994/6/Add.1); (b) Fourth country programme for Cape Verde (DP/1994/41/Add.1); (c) Fourth country programme for India (DP/1994/6/Add.2); (d) Fourth country programme for Indonesia (DP/1994/6/Add.3); (e) Third country programme for China (DP/1994/41/Add.2);

ITEM 6: EVALUATION

Took note of the annual report on evaluation (DP/1994/24);

ITEM 7: OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

Adopted decision 94/9 of 13 May 1994 on United Nations Volunteers;

Adopted decision 94/7 of 12 May 1994 on United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources;

Took note of the report on: (a) United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development; (b) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; (c) Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (DP/1994/29);

Took note of the report on the United Nations Capital Development Fund (DP/1994/33) and encouraged the Fund to continue its efforts to identify increased sources of financing, including those from non-traditional donors;

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

Adopted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II) as the basis for the participation of UNDP as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (DP/1994/60).

13 May 1994